

Ladies and Gentlemen, I urge the FCC to adopt the suggestion expressed by the American Radio Relay League with one reservation. I recommend that there be no morse code requirement for any of the classes of amateur licenses.

Morse code (CW) is one of many modes of radio communication grantees in the Amateur Service are privileged to employ yet it is the only mode that is tested. Those who wish to mandate certain CW comprehension speeds are bound by a tradition which was probably very significant in the early days of the amateur radio service. Today's ham, however, has many modes from which to choose and absolute dependence upon CW has lost it significance.

Retaining a CW requirement will only serve to quell interest among prospective hams, at a moment in our nation's life when a robust amateur service can be of good value in responding to emergencies. The absence of a CW requirement will not translate into fewer CW operators; rather more. If you remove a CW requirement new amateurs, innocent of the current poisonous debate over CW speeds, will try the mode out of curiosity and interest and not see it as an obsolete tradition that they must conquer to earn the broader privileges of the amateur extra class.

I must confess a certain self-interest. I am a CW operator, KG4TDJ. I seldom use SSB or other modes, usually only when I help the club out in the several contesting events that our club pursues. I assure that I am genuine when I suggest that abolishing all CW requirements will lead to a blossoming in interest in CW especially among the more youthful hams. When they decide something is cool, there is no stopping them.